

# THOMAS AND MARGARET TODD



Thomas Todd Sr. was born January 28, 1821, in Scotland, son of John and Marion Lorimer Todd.

He married Margaret Shankland in January, 1850, on her twenty-fifth birthday, and moved to Heber City in May, 1860.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and in 1909, Thomas Todd passed away, being 88 years of age.

Nine children were born to this couple: John, James, Thomas Jr., Margaret, Marion Jane, Isabelle Helen, Sarah Ann, John M. Murdoch and David Alexander.

As he recalled his early childhood, he was most impressed by the deep religious convictions of his parents. Throughout his life he gave expression to the love he held for his brothers and sisters. They, too, in their letters to him were continually expressing their love for him and for each other.

He was reared in an atmosphere of strict adherence to prayer and in promptness and orderliness. These characteristics he never deserted.

Thomas Todd was a farmer, as was his father, working often as a servant plowman.

He was in his early twenties when he began work in public service. It was at this

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time that he, along with some other young men, assisted in establishing a library in the town of Tinwald.

In January, 1850, he was married to Margaret Shankland, second daughter of James Shankland and Margaret Cummin of Durnside, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, in her twenty-fifth year.

These two young people had much in common in the similarity of their early training. Both had been taught stern adherence to their religious convictions. Both were trained to be industrious, true and meticulously neat and orderly. These virtues characterized their whole lives.

During the summer of the year of their marriage they accepted the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Four years later, Thomas Todd, his wife Margaret and their two sons sailed from Liverpool on the ship "John M. Wood," landing in New Orleans in eight weeks. From there they took a river boat up the Mississippi to St. Louis, then on to Kansas, where they made preparations to make a land journey of 1,200 miles by ox team.

Thomas Todd was appointed to take charge of 10 wagons across the plains. There were 10 persons to a wagon. That long journey across the plains lasted three months, lacking one day, and they reached Salt Lake Valley on October 1, 1854.

Immediately after his arrival he made arrangements with Brother Levi Savage to work his land on shares. He planted 9½ acres of wheat before the winter storms came.

The following spring, 1855, his fields looked good, but the grasshoppers came again and destroyed fields far and near. Thomas and Margaret were successful in saving a part of their wheat.

When the grain was ripe the two of them pulled the whole of their crop by hand. Half of this harvest belonged to the land owner. They were happy to have their 19½ bushels of wheat.

In the fall of 1857 he bought a cow, the "first cow I ever owned," he said. They sold bedding to raise the \$40 to pay for it.

Shortly after this, Thomas Todd was called to Echo Canyon when Johnston's army was on its way to Utah. He was 66 days before returning to Salt Lake City. Again, in the early spring, he was called to

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go to Echo Canyon and Lost Station as a captain of 50 men. This time they were out about four months, until the close of the Utah war. While he was away his family was moved to Spanish Fork, to the home of James Laird.

When his release came he went to Spanish Fork, where he bought a lot for \$10. Here he built a two-room house.

The Todd family made their next and last big move in May, 1860, when they came to Heber City in the beautiful Provo Valley. Thomas had previously taken up some land and fenced it, planting five or six acres in wheat.

It was during the following year that Fort Sumpter was surrendered to the Confederate army and, as in other communities of our nation, the state militia was organized. John Wesley Witt was appointed major and Thomas Todd was appointed first captain of the infantry in C company.

He served two terms as selectman, one beginning in 1862 and the other in 1871. He was appointed road supervisor, a job he held many years. Later he was made county road commissioner. It was his opportunity to sign, with others, the peace treaty to settle the Indian troubles with Old Tabby.

Thomas Todd never wavered in his testimony of the gospel. He was ever ready to fill his calling in this capacity.

He presided over the teachers in the Sixth Ward in Salt Lake City and was later ordained a Seventy.

In Spanish Fork he was a teacher in the Quorum of Seventy, and when he came to Heber was first counselor in the High Priests' Quorum. Later he acted as first counselor to two bishops.

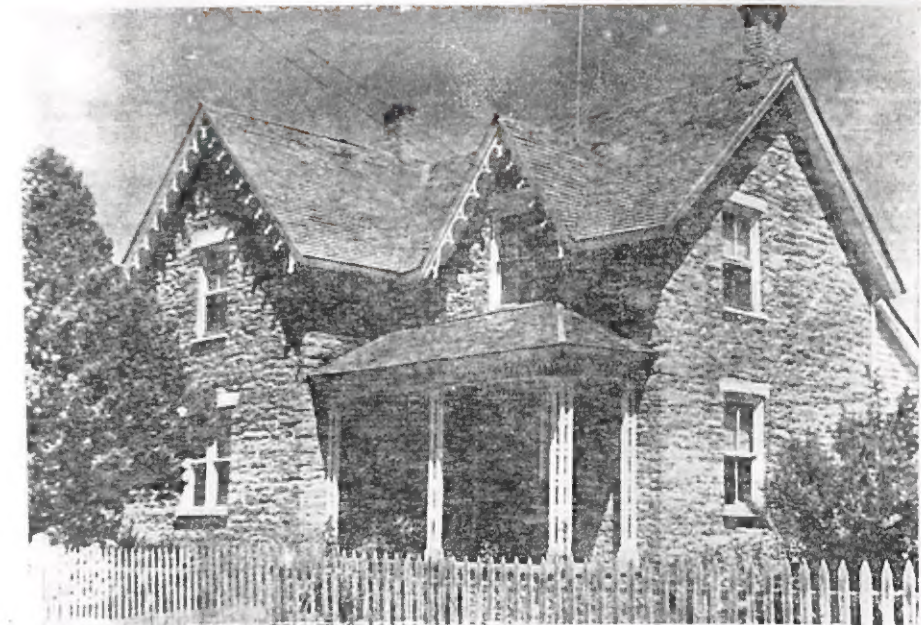
He was a very good singer and led the Heber choir many years.

The custom of a 24-gun salute at sunrise as a commencement to a celebration of the Fourth of July was under the direction of Thomas Todd through the years.

With all his activities in public life, his greatest achievement was in his home, along with his good wife. Thomas and Margaret were the parents of eight children, men and women of integrity. They lived in a home of love, understanding and fairness to each other.

Their lovely home, with its beautiful

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The home of Thomas Todd, erected from native red sandstone in 1879. It is still standing.

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flowers and well-kept garden, was their joy. Many a rare plant was nurtured to bloom and it was in this garden that the first rose bushes in Provo Valley were planted.

Their home was made attractive with Margaret Todd's handiwork. In addition to being an excellent housekeeper, she was a wonderful cook and a gracious hostess. She was an artist in her selections and a perfectionist in her skills in the home arts of her time.

This hard-working couple had little patience with lazy or shiftless people, but were ever ready to help any who came their way. They extended the hand of fellowship to many who needed their blessing.

In 1900 they celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with an open house in their home.

Margaret Todd died in 1907, in her eighty-third year, and two years later her devoted husband passed away, when he was 88 years of age. 1914

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